

Home and Farm.

Educating Farmers.

It is now universally admitted, at least by all sensible persons, that farmers require a specific course of education, unobtainable to their calling and calculated to fit them for its pursuit—as much as lawyers or doctors or engineers. Not that farming is a matter of theory merely; it must be learned by practice as much as any mechanical trade; but more hand work will make an intelligent farmer, nor can it, as a general thing, make a successful one. Farming is both a science and an art. The science cannot be learned simply by turning the soil, nor can the art be learned from books.

It is by overlooking this combination that some practical farmers on the one hand have despised agricultural education, and on the other hand have been shown a poor flat at practical farming. Study and practice, knowledge and apprenticeship must go together to ensure the highest success.

In this connection we make a significant extract from an "Address to the Agricultural Organizations in the United States," prepared by the National Agricultural Association at Nashville, Oct. 3d, 1871, which was read at the recent Convention at Washington, D.C.

"The history of the last quarter of a century records nothing of more importance to the world at large than the rapid and wide spread uplifting of the business of agriculture—from a condition wherein earlier knowledge nor skill were requisite, but only brute force, to that wherein a wider range of knowledge and a higher skill may find ample employment, than is demanded in any other calling. This is no vain boast, but a fact standing out in bold relief and challenging the attention of every thoughtful student of the present times. The history of this uprising, though brief, is full of interest and instruction. It is not the result of any one discovery, though many discoveries have contributed thereto; nor the product of any one invention, though many inventions have aided. Like all great results, it is the product of many combined forces; the effect of many far-reaching causes; the result of many generations of toil to ennoble the arts of science, while the principles of many arts, in other words, the farmer now needs his schools and his colleges as much as the lawyer and the physician—schools and colleges, too, of equal grade and wider compass. This is the meaning of the movement that, in the world of education, marks the present from all other times. Industrial schools and colleges have arisen during the present century in every civilized country throughout Christendom. Results wide-spread, and yet so uniform, can only flow from a force deep-seated, far-reaching and irresistible. That force is the uprising of the industrial classes."

Sheep and Wool.
The few wool growers who kept up their flocks "on principle," through the last four discouraging years, are now fully on the situation. Such persistent stock-men as Thomas Gerhart, of Portage, Calvin Cawell, of Erie, and Wm. E. Greer, of Lake, all of Ohio, have their right side up for the shower of porridge.

I have a letter from a large wool grower in Illinois, who kept up his flock in Ohio, until pasture ceased to be a virtue, and then took them West, which says: "I have just returned from a ride on horseback through Vermilion county, Ind., Vermilion, Edgar, Douglas and Platt counties, Ill., in search of stock sheep, and have to report that there are, at most, less than a sheep of any kind to be found in those counties, which, four years ago, were among the largest wool producing counties in the South. All along my route of travel, I could hear of where there had been flocks of from five hundred to several thousand but three or four years ago, but all are invariably known to have been for mutton and shipped to market."

I learn from one of the principal buyers of Bloomington, that there was not more than one-half amount of wool purchased in the market from McClain county, the past year, that there were three years ago.

For the past four years, up to last season, the dairymen of the West have had the better of the wool growers. Last year was hard on the dairymen, and now many of them are desirous of going out of the dairy business and into wool growing. To do this, they require a sacrifice at both ends of the change, since they cannot well dispose of their cows, and sheep are few and dear, and the change would be like that hazardous one of swapping horses in the middle of a stream.—S.D. H. in Moore's Rural.

Every meadow, every pasture, a battle field where clans of different kinds are fighting for their chances. Supply your friends with what they want freely, and they will overpower their opponents without further assistance. The washing down by rain from hilly, stony pastures of soluble mineral substances takes substance from the plants we desire to encourage. Spread rich soil, guano, wood ashes, upon a pasty swampy tract, where you never before saw white clover or useful grasses, and suddenly they will make their appearance without even being sown. They have been there before, waiting only for a better chance, but you could not see them, for they were overrun by coarser plants and powerless from starvation.

Wm. T. CAMPBELL writes the Rural New Yorker: "It is very seldom that a farmer can afford to be a miser, and it should be the aim of the horseholder to have his horse's foot, after the shoe is on, as it was before it was shod; so, instead of a heavy shoe, make one as light as possible—a shoe the same as running horses have. Shoe them close, and there will be no trouble—I have cured animals that interfered badly, in this way."

The average price of a sheep, not less than a year old has advanced from \$2.75 to \$4.50, in Vermont, since last February one year ago.

The Morgan Horse.

(From the American Stock Journal.)

There has been much discussion as to the origin of the Morgan horse, and yet we have very little knowledge on the subject that is definite. What we do know is, that about the beginning of the nineteenth century, a man by the name of Justin Morgan, whose life was somewhat checkered—turning his hand to farming one season, and perhaps teaching school the next—owned a little horse of wonderful nerve, a dark bay, with black legs, mane and tail, standing fourteen hands high, and weighing about nine hundred and fifty pounds. At this time, Mr. Morgan lived at Randolph, Vt., and his horse had much local celebrity. He was a horse of great power for one of his inches, was fleet of foot, and was full of resolution. He was used chiefly under the saddle, but was broken to harness.

It was the custom to run him short on the country roads, and it is said that he was never beaten in these contests. It was also the custom to test his strength by hitching him in front of heavy loads. Where the horse came from and what was his breeding are questions that are largely left to conjecture. There are many stories, but we have learned to look upon them in the light of tradition. If we could put faith in common report, we would discover as much romance in the life of the horse owned by Justin Morgan as Eugene Sue has thrown around the life of the Goldfish Arabian.

Where there is room for mystery, there is also room for bright fancies, and for many pictures of romance. The most plausible theory, however, in regard to the origin of the horse which is known in history by the name of the Vermont owner, Justin Morgan, is that advanced by Mr. John Morgan, a relative of Justin's. He says that the horse was bred in 1789, by the imported horse breeder, and that his dam was of the Wild Arab breed. This pedigree is correct, Justin Morgan was a well-bred horse. Of course the pedigree is disputed, but as far as that matter, no pedigree could be given to the horse that would not be open to objection. All the facts in his remarkable career point to a chance of pure blood, and give the lie to the story that he was a mongrel, was of obscure origin. The life of the Justin Morgan was a strange one. It was his lot to labor as well as to be abused, to be in the midst of the excitement of the stud, and, finally, to be neglected in his old age, and to die, caused by a kick in the flank. Old and poor as he was, he might have survived this injury had he received any care; but he was exposed to the indignities of a Northern winter, and inflammation setting in, he lay down and died. It was in the winter of 1821, and on the farm of Clifford Dean about three miles south of the village of Chelsea, Vt., that the Justin Morgan breathed his last.

Pruning.
Whenever pruning has been neglected up to this time, it should now be performed to save bleeding at the cuts. But "better no pruning than bad pruning." Different species of plants require different modes and times of pruning. Grapevines and ornamental climbing vines make rapid growth during the early season of growth, and make a greater number of roots than can mature; hence in spring there are many dead roots to be cut out. When the plants cover the allotted space for them, the live roots have all to be shortened, so as to make the plants look tidy; and that also promotes greater quantity of blossoms, and the blooms are better displayed and are more fragrant; and the fruit more plentifully and the fruit after ripened are more sweet and juicy.

Fruiting trees need the branches thinned out so that the sunshine and air will get into the hearts of the trees. When the trees are too much extended, or are growing luxuriantly, the ends of the branches are cut off a few inches or a few feet, according to the spread of the tree. Stone fruit need branches thinned out, but they are all benefited by the ends of the branches being cut off. This is called "shortening in pruning." We have seen a wonderful renovation of old, decaying fruit trees within a few years back, upon the wealthy estate of Gen. Pleasanton, near Philadelphia, by pruning, scraping and washing the stems and part of the branches. The trees are now in a most prime condition, and in the "full prime of manhood," as it is called.

In pruning shrubbery, all the species whose blossoms are produced on the stems, should only have the suckers cut out, and the branches thinned; those whose blossoms come out on top of the stems, are cut out on top to shorten and make them more bushy.—Journal of the Farm.

Albino Clover in Michigan.
A correspondent of the Western Rural says: "A year ago last Spring I hoisted a purchased crop of clover seed, some twenty-five acres, it taking at the rate of four and one-third pounds to the acre, at \$1 per pound. I sowed in the month of April, on ground prepared for and sowed to wheat. I harrowed the ground and afterward plowed it. Notwithstanding the dry season, I cut from that ground about a ton and a half of hay. I fed my barba five tons for feeding; the balance I stacked, and in September I cut it and got eighty-five bushels of seed. Before cutting, I brought in some stalks which measured four feet in length. The field on which it was sown is high rolling land, soil dark and rich. I am feeling this winter my entire stock, consisting of horses and cattle, on the hay that was threshed. They never thrived better of any feed than they do at the present time. It is free from fuzz and dust, and the stalks, unlike the other clover, remain green after the seed has ripened, and the cattle seize it with an avidity that would plainly indicate its superiority over the common red clover. It also excels for the hay, as it is equal to, if not superior to, the white clover. The first cutting, I fed the seed, and, afterward, excellent pasture—but, if preferred for hay, and no seed, it produces two crops. With the knowledge I have of it, I would not recommend it for light, sandy soil."

Manure well and plow deep if you want to raise good crops.

Raising Fruit and Eat It.

(The following sensible suggestions in regard to fruit-raising is taken from Moore's Rural, and should be read by every person owning a rod square of land.)

"This is a fruit country. Nearly all farmers may raise their own fruit.—Strawberries grow, or will grow, almost everywhere. They can be canned and so well preserved the whole year. Apples, pears, peaches, can be raised on most farms. There is no good reason why fruit should not be as common or cheap as wheat."

"This is a bilious country; that is the people who live here are especially liable to bilious diseases. There is perhaps no better preventive of bilious diseases than the constant use of fruit as a diet. It corrects the acids and juices of the stomach, and assists digestion. It keeps the bowels properly active and prevents that sluggishness and torpidity which promote bilious derangements. Fruit to do its best office in the diet, should be cooked and eaten as a part of the regular meal. Thus used how delicious it is! How it adds to the pleasures of a meal to have it enriched with so delicate and agreeable an article of diet! How dainty and elevating the tendency of such diet could be with one of the most solid and bread. So it is; the best diet is really the pleasantest—therefore let fruits grow on our farms and adorn and make pleasant all our tables."

Superannuated Queens.
I will give one case: I had a stock that I supposed had lost their queen, as I could find no eggs or unsealed larvae in the hive; I introduced a queen in my usual manner of introducing, and to my surprise, on the third day thereafter, I found her dead in front of the hive. I then gave the stock a card of eggs and unsealed larvae, expecting them to raise a queen, but they failed to start any cells. I did not pay any attention to them for a number of days, thinking to break up the stock and give the combs to new swarms. On opening the hive to break them up I discovered two or three worker larvae, a few sealed workers, and five or six eggs, not yet hatched, and among the rest a queen cell with the larva, nearly ready to hatch.

I then went to searching for a queen, and after a long and fruitless search, I found her Majesty, but I was several times on the point of giving up. Now, the mystery was solved. This stock had a superannated old queen. In those cases the queen becomes very small, not larger than a worker, hence the difficulty in finding her. She had become superannated and ceased laying entirely, yet the bees still clung to her as a mother, and did not like to give her up; but after a long time, by some means, possibly induced her to lay a few eggs and combed them to raise a queen to fill her place. The queen was very old, and where there are two queens in a hive, a young fertile one and an old one, that before introducing a new one I examine closely for two.

Washington as a Farmer.
The farm of General Washington, at Mount Vernon, contained ten thousand acres of land in one body—equal to about fifteen square miles. It was divided into farms of convenient size, at the distance of two, three and five miles from the Mansion House. He divided these farms every day in pleasant weather, and was constantly engaged in making experiments for the improvement of agriculture. Some idea of the extent of his farming operations may be formed from the following facts: In 1787 he had five hundred and eighty acres of land in grass; sowed six hundred bushels of oats; seven hundred in corn, barley, potatoes, beans, peas, &c. and one hundred and fifty with turnips. He stock-raised of one hundred and forty horses; one hundred and twelve cows; two hundred and thirty-five working oxen, heifers and steers, and five hundred sheep. He constantly employed two hundred fifty hands, and kept twenty thousand geese going during the whole year, when the crop and the state of the weather would permit. In 1780 he slaughtered one hundred and fifty hogs for the use of his own family, and provisions for his negroes, for whom comfort he had a great regard.

Growing Potatoes Under Straw.
After planting a place of ground in the usual way last spring, a friend told me that by covering the ground from six to eight inches deep with straw, it would prevent the ravages of the Colorado potato bug. I accordingly covered one-half the patch with straw. I soon found, however, that I had to fight the bugs on this part of the ground the same as the other, which I did by catching them twice a week.

When digging time came I found that those covered with straw yielded full one-third more than the others, and were much larger and of more uniform size. The digging required less than half the labor, as the potatoes lay almost entirely above ground. At the time of covering with straw (which was immediately after planting), I placed some hills between the rows which I did not cover with earth, but which I did not amount to anything. I placed a few of each kind on exhibition at our annual Fair, with a description of the mode of cultivation. They attracted much attention.—J. H. Eaton, in Western Farmer.

Tux Cedar Rapids Observer says: "Joseph Smith, in the edge of Benton county, Iowa, raised from eighty acres of land, on soil ground, 875 bushels of barley, 686 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of oats, 1,800 bushels of corn, 70 bushels of potatoes, 70 gallons of soybeans, and 12 tons of hay, besides 'some other little things.'"

Farmers' Boys.
An intelligent and thrifty farmer tells in a few words how he kept his boys at home and made farm life not only endurable but attractive to the youngsters. The lesson is well worth heeding. He says: "But for the operation of my boys, I should have failed. The eldest is nearly twenty-one, and other boys in the neighborhood, younger, have left their parents' mine have stuck to me. I must have needed their services. I attributed this result to the fact that I have tried to make home pleasant for them. I have furnished them with attractive and useful reading; and when night comes, and the day's work is ended, instead of running with other boys to the railroad station and adjoining towns, they gather around the great lamp, and become interested in their books and papers."

Crockery Store.

(Correspondence Cincinnati Post.)

There is no fruit that can be so easily raised as strawberries and none that pays so well for any extra care bestowed upon their cultivation. They can be grown with tolerable success on all kinds of soils and in almost any climate. It has not been many years since strawberries were considered a luxury for market purposes. Hundreds of acres are now cultivated in the vicinity of all our large cities and the fruit is readily disposed of at paying prices. Twenty-five hundred tons were shipped to Chicago last year, and were either consumed in the place or forwarded to other towns farther north. Every farmer could be abundantly supplied with strawberries with little expense or labor. The use of small fruits of any kind during the summer season is more economical and healthful than the stronger food usually found on the farmer's table. Fruit is the best medicine that can be used to improve the digestion, prevent fever and bilious attacks. "It never clogs the appetite, it never closes the stomach, it never constipates the bowels. It strengthens, elevates and enlivens the mind. Any land that will produce a good crop of corn or wheat will produce a fair crop of strawberries. New land will produce the largest crop with the least amount of labor. Clay lands are the best, as they are least affected by the drought. Strawberries require considerable moisture during the bearing season to insure a full crop of fruit. Poor lands may be made to produce good crops by thoroughly mixing well rotted manure with the soil before planting. The land should be ploughed deep and well stirred before planting; should be as mellow and loose as a garden, free from weeds and grass—particularly white clover. The more thorough the preparation of the soil the less labor will be required to cultivate the crop. Furrows should be made three and a half or four feet apart, and six inches deep. The crop could be greatly increased on this land, by partly filling the furrow with leaf mould or soil from around decayed stamper logs. Wood ashes sprinkled along the furrows before planting and mixed with the soil in the bottom of the furrow, is an excellent fertilizer.

School young plants of the last year's growth trim of the ends of the roots and pinch out the fruit buds before planting. Set the plants fifteen or twenty inches apart in the sun, carefully spreading out the roots, cover with loose, moist dirt, and press the dirt down around the plant, but be careful not to cover the crown of the plant. The roots of the plants should not be exposed to the sun or wind under any circumstances. Strawberries should be planted as early in the spring as the ground can be put in good condition. However, they can be successfully planted any time in April. Fall planting sometimes does well, but for field culture the spring is always to be preferred. The Wilson's Albany is now conceded by all fruit growers to be the most profitable variety to cultivate for market. Barr's New Pine, McAvoy's Superior and Triumph d'Gard are excellent varieties for family use. Some varieties succeed well in some localities and fail in others. The Albany has given better satisfaction than any other strawberry. There are a great many worthless varieties advertised in the horticultural papers and many others that may succeed well in certain localities.

Liquid Excrement.
How strangely we overlook the value of the excrement of our animals! A cow, under ordinary feeding furnishes in a year 20,000 pounds of solid excrement, and about 800 pounds of liquid. The comparative market value of the two is but slightly in favor of the solid. This statement has been verified as true over and over again. The urine of herbivorous animals holds nearly all the secretions of the body which are capable of producing the cholera, dysentery, and other diseases. Solid excrement, and other rich nitrogenous compounds so essential to forcing or leaf forming plants. The solid holds the phosphoric acid, the lime and magnesia which go to the seed principally; but the liquid, holding nitrogen, potash and soda, is needed in forming the stalk and leaves. The two forms of plant nutriment should never be separated or allowed to be wasted by neglect. The farmer who saves the excrement of his animals doubles his manure resources every year. Good seasoned peat of immense service to farmers, when used as an absorbent, and the stalls for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a general passage-room for peat, to be used daily with the excrement.—Boston Journal of Chemistry.

Care of Young Fruit Trees.
Young fruit trees for the first two or three years after transplanting, should, before hard winter sets in, be protected against any undue quantity of water, especially in low situations. The trees can be best protected by a simple hallock of dirt around the stems sufficient to throw off the water and not let it settle about the roots. We have known young trees to be killed by constant immersion in water through most of the winter, and have frequently known them to be stunted, from which many of them never entirely recovered. On another hand, the trees can be best protected by a simple hallock of dirt around the stems sufficient to throw off the water and not let it settle about the roots. We have known young trees to be killed by constant immersion in water through most of the winter, and have frequently known them to be stunted, from which many of them never entirely recovered. 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